

Members

Rep. Markt Lytle, Chairperson
Rep. Gary Cook
Rep. James Buck
Rep. William Friend
Sen. Thomas Weatherwax
Sen. James Merritt
Sen. Katie Wolf
Sen. Samuel Smith, Jr.
Norm Blankenship
David Butterfield
Richard P. Jones
Karen Large
Mayor Howard Hatcher
James R. Murphy
Patricia French
Mayor William Goffinet



LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE STUDY COMMISSION

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 232-9588 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Ross Hooten, Attorney for the Commission
Robert Sigalow, Fiscal Analyst for the
Commission

Authority: P.L. 242-1997

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 23, 2000
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Markt Lytle, Chairperson; Rep. James Buck; Sen. James Merritt; Sen. Katie Wolf; Norm Blankenship; Karen Large; Mayor William Goffinet; James R. Murphy; Patricia French.

Members Absent: Rep. Gary Cook; Rep. William Friend; Sen. Thomas Weatherwax; Sen. Samuel Smith, Jr.; David Butterfield; Richard P. Jones; Mayor Howard Hatcher.

Rep. Lytle called the meeting to order shortly after 10:30 and asked the members present to introduce themselves to the audience. Following the introductions, Rep. Lytle reviewed the topic assigned to the Commission for study by the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council has instructed the Commission to study the feasibility of establishing

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

shelters for the homeless and the extent to which the lack of funding has aggravated the problem of homelessness. Rep. Lytle announced that the Commission will address the issue at a future meeting of the Commission.

Rep. Lytle then opened the floor to Commission members who wished to suggest other topics for the Commission's consideration.

Mayor William Goffinet, Tell City, addressed the Commission on behalf of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns and the Association of Indiana Counties. Mayor Goffinet requested that the two associations have an opportunity to make a joint presentation to the Commission relating to local fiscal home rule. Mayor Goffinet then spoke briefly in support of local fiscal home rule.

David Bottorff, Association of Indiana Counties, followed Mayor Goffinet's remarks by confirming the association's willingness to participate in the study and provide information to the Commission.

Rep. Lytle asked whether the associations wanted to make the presentation after their respective annual meetings. Mayor Goffinet replied in the affirmative and added that the associations had made a similar presentation during the 1999 interim. Mayor Goffinet noted that the associations would update the information provided in 1999.

Rep. Buck asked whether the associations would seek complete fiscal home rule. Mayor Goffinet replied that the associations would narrow the focus and seek three or four options that communities around the state could select from. Mayor Goffinet noted he did not feel that the General Assembly would be receptive to complete fiscal home rule.

After a brief discussion about the impact of fiscal home rule in different communities around the state, Rep. Lytle asked about the strength of the alliance between the two associations and their respective members. Tonya Galbraith, Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, noted that the two organizations have worked together on a variety of issues in recent years and that the long term effects of the fiscal home rule proposal have further strengthened their resolve to work closely together.

Rep. Lytle then opened the floor to members of the audience who wished to suggest a topic for the Commission's consideration. Steve Buschmann, representing the Indiana Township Association, asked the Commission to consider statutory changes regarding the financing of township fire protection. Mr. Buschmann noted that the existing procedures for emergency borrowing divert money used for interest and attorney fees from the provision of fire protection.

After some discussion of fire protection generally, Rep. Lytle announced that the Commission would consider the issue at its next meeting. Rep. Lytle then stated that the Commission would limit its work program for the remainder of the interim to the three issues raised at the first meeting: (1) the feasibility of establishing homeless shelters for the homelessness; (2) local fiscal home rule; and (3) emergency borrowing for township fire protection. Rep. Lytle then adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m.